

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A casting die for metal casting, said casting die comprising:

a main body having a wall surface for defining a portion of a mold cavity, said main body comprising:

a gate defining an initial flow path for routing molten metal, wherein said initial flow path is disposed at a first level and defines an initial flow direction, and

a flow-receiving wall extending away from said first level in a direction substantially transverse to said initial flow direction; and

a cavity forming reinforcement member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, the cavity forming reinforcement member being permanently fused to said flow-receiving wall of the main body;

said main body being made of steel, the steel being equivalent to steels designated as an SCM material or an SKD material;

said cavity forming reinforcement member being made of maraging steel or a steel equivalent to steels designated as an SKH material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the SCM material or the SKD material which said main body is made of,

wherein the material designations are as designated by Japanese Industrial Standards.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A casting die for metal casting according to claim 1, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming reinforcement member is disposed ~~in a position adjacent~~ closest to said gate.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die for metal casting having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming reinforcement member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a main body of steel with a mold cavity defined thereby, said main body comprising:

a gate defining an initial flow path for routing molten metal, wherein said initial flow path is disposed at a first level and defines an initial flow direction, and

a flow-receiving wall extending away from said first level in a direction substantially transverse to said initial flow direction;

defining a recess in a portion of said ~~mold cavity~~; [[and]]

placing a cavity forming reinforcement member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the steel which said main body is made of, in said recess in said main body, and

wherein permanently fusing the cavity forming reinforcement member is fused to the flow-receiving wall of the main body ~~on the face of the mold cavity~~ through welding, [[and]]

wherein said cavity forming member is formed by depositing material on the face of the mold cavity through welding.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die for metal casting having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming reinforcement member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the ~~[[step]]~~ steps of:

placing, in a portion of the mold cavity in the main body which has been used in a casting process, a cavity forming reinforcement member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than a steel which said main body is made of,

wherein said main body comprises:

a gate defining an initial flow path for routing molten metal, wherein said initial flow path is disposed at a first level and defines an initial flow direction, and

a flow-receiving wall extending away from said first level in a direction substantially transverse to said initial flow direction; and

~~wherein permanently fusing the cavity forming reinforcement member is fused to the flow-receiving wall of the main body on the face of the mold cavity~~ through welding, and

wherein said cavity forming reinforcement member is formed by depositing material on the face of the mold cavity through welding.

Claims 7-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claims 5, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming reinforcement member is disposed ~~in a position~~ adjacent ~~elosest~~ to said gate.

Claims 10-11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming reinforcement member is disposed ~~in a position closest~~ adjacent to said gate.